

National Drainage Plan Completed - PM

THE GOVERNMENT of Jamaica has completed a comprehensive national plan to improve the drainage system which will put an end to the flooding in the Corporate Area, as well as several flood-prone towns, such as May Pen, Santa Cruz and Port Maria.

"When we are done, the entire Jamaica will be fully developed. Indeed, improving our road infrastructure is critical to productivity, connectivity and building a prosperous new Jamaica," Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness said.

Addressing the House of Representatives on September 11, Mr. Holness noted that National Works



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness

Agency (NWA) completed the master drainage study last year, which provides a comprehensive overview of the gaps in the drainage systems nationally.

"We have done the request for proposals for a drainage design for Kingston and St. Andrew. Hopefully, they will go to contracting within a month and the period of design will be about six months. Hopefully, we will have that ready in terms of the major drains that will have to be reconstructed or new drains to be put in Kingston and St. Andrew," he stated.

Some of the areas to benefit from the drainage plan include Tinson Pen, Maxfield Avenue, St. Andrew West Central and the St. Andrew East Central constituencies.

The Prime Minister told the House that the execution of the drainage plan is estimated to cost between US\$100 million-US\$150 million.

Four More Schools to be Removed From Shift System

FOUR SCHOOLS will be removed from the shift system in the 2019/20 fiscal year at a total cost of \$93.9 million.

They are Exchange All-Age School in St. Ann, which will be upgraded at a cost of \$21.9 million; Albert Town High School, Trelawny, \$30 million; Cedric Titus High School, Trelawny, \$12 million; and Port Antonio High, Portland, \$30 million.

Minister with responsibility for Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Karl Samuda, made the disclosure as he responded to questions posed by Opposition Spokesman on Education, Ronald Thwaites, during the sitting of the House of Representatives on September 10.

He noted that the four schools are among 37 institutions that remain on shift.

Some of the others are St. James High; Old Harbour High and Spanish Town High, St. Catherine; Boundbrook Primary, Portland; Donald Quarrie High,



Minister with responsibility for Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Karl Samuda

Kingston; Jonathan Grant High, St. Catherine; Chapelton All-Age, Clarendon; Bellefield High and Christiana High, Manchester; Petersfield High, Westmoreland; St. Ann's Bay Primary, St. Ann and Seaford High, St. Thomas.

"The plan is all schools will be taken off shifts. The capital budget is \$1.2 billion, and \$644 million has been budgeted for infrastructure works," Mr. Samuda said.

Contracts Awarded for Renovation of 14 Police Stations

ANOTHER 14 police stations across the island are being renovated at a cost of \$195 million as the Government continues to improve working conditions for members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

They are Annotto Bay Police Station in St. Mary; the Mavis Bank, Irish Town, Gordon Town and August Town police stations in St. Andrew; the Tivoli Gardens, Kingston Central, Allman Town, Admiral Town and Darling Street police stations in Kingston; the Maggoty and Pedro Plains police stations in St. Elizabeth; the Clarks Town Police Station in Trelawny; and Chapelton police station in Clarendon.

Eight contracts have been awarded to undertake the improvements, which



Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (2nd left), and Commissioner of Police, Major General Antony Anderson (left), look on as Head of Corporate Services in the Ministry, Delroy Simpson (2nd right), and Projects Director, Build-Rite Construction Company Limited, Odane Gordon, affix their signature to a contract for the renovation of the Tivoli Gardens and Allman Town police stations in Kingston during a ceremony held at the Ministry's Oxford Road corporate area offices on September 11.

have already started. Works include roof repairs, electrical and plumbing works, infrastructural repairs, termite treatment, refurbishing of

bathrooms, improving drainage systems and replacing perimeter fencing.

The signing ceremony took place on September 11

at the Ministry of National Security's Oxford Road offices in Kingston.

Portfolio Minister, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, in his remarks, said by "providing police officers with updated, fit-for-purpose facilities, we are strengthening their capacity to appropriately represent their office, while effectively carrying out their duties in securing Jamaican lives and livelihoods".

The improvements fall under the Ministry's Project Rebuild, Overhaul, Construct (ROC), which seeks to transform 186 police facilities across the island.

NWC to Source Water from Rio Cobre and Rehabilitated Wells for KMA

PRESIDENT OF the National Water Commission (NWC), Mark Barnett, has announced that the Commission will be sourcing water from the Rio Cobre and rehabilitated wells to address the water issue faced by residents of the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA).

"We are at an advanced stage of adding 15 million gallons of water per day to the network, coming from the Rio Cobre, to help alleviate the water issue of Kingston.

We believe that this, in addition to the rehabilitation of 11 to 15 wells, which were abandoned due to high nitrate levels, should provide an additional one third of the flow of 'new' water into the city," Mr. Barnett said.

The President was speaking at a Jamaica Information Service (JIS) Think Tank on September 12.

He reminded that in 2010 when the country faced a similar drought, the Rio Cobre produced upwards of



President, National Water Commission, Mark Barnett

40 million gallons of water per day, and studies have deemed it a reliable water source.

"Based on the licensing capacity issued by the Water Resources Authority, we are looking at an additional five to six million gallons of water to be generated from the wells," Mr. Barnett said.

He noted that this short-term strategy, when compared with the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) projections for urban growth, will allow for water provision up to 2024.

Jamaica Mortgage Bank Providing \$1.5 Billion for Corporate Area Housing Projects

MINISTER WITHOUT Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr., says that eight housing developers are completing projects in the Corporate Area through loans totalling approximately \$1.5 billion from the Jamaica Mortgage Bank (JMB).

These developments are Kensington Gates (\$642-million loan); Mayfair Manor (\$401.48 million); Sherlock Manor (\$132.6 million); Portview Manor (\$89.53 million); Edinburgh Apartments (\$66.45 million); Hughenden Apartments (\$61.12 million); Harmony Court (\$58.3 million); and Beconfield Apartments (\$40.9 million).

Speaking to **JIS News** after a tour of the projects on September 11, Senator Charles Jr. hailed the private investors, some of whom are undertaking their first housing developments, for creating impactful projects that have helped to boost Jamaica's construction sector.



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr. (left), listens to General Manager, Jamaica Mortgage Bank (JMB), Courtney Wynter (right), during a tour of the Harmony Court housing project in St. Andrew on September 11. Looking on is Construction Supervisor for the development, Noel Jump.

He noted that they are providing "safe, affordable [and] legal housing solutions for our people, particularly our young professionals".

Senator Charles Jr. said that one aim of the tour was to reassure the developers of the Ministry's and the JMB's commitment to ensuring the success of their projects.

"We have monitoring systems and [measures] to provide guidance and the necessary support to ensure the success of these developments. The success of our developers is the success of JMB, is success for Jamaica," he stressed.

Minister Tufton at Caribbean Wellness Day Launch



Amputee and dancer of the group *Recycled Teenagers*, Claire Reid, dances with Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (2nd left), during the launch of Caribbean Wellness Day 2019 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, in St. Andrew on September 10. Caribbean Wellness Day was observed on September 14.



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